

RELEASED IN FULL
PG 01PAGE 1 OF 5
M49

UNCLASSIFIED FAX

TO: AF/C - KEVIN AISTON
FAX: (202) 647-1726
FROM: EMBASSY/KIGALI
FAX: 011-873-1507504
SUBJECT: DRAFT CABLE

DRAFTED: CDA-JELEADER
CLEARED: PM-TMARLEY

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CONVENES DIPLOMATIC CORPS

1. SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER NDAGIJIMANA GAVE THE ASSEMBLED DIPLOMATIC CORPS A NO-NONSENSE EXPLANATION FOR THE CURRENT SITUATION IN RWANDA IN HIS FIRST CONTACT WITH THEM 8/24. HE CALLED FOR RAPID RESUMPTION OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIZATION, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, AND THE RULE OF LAW. HE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT THE ANTICIPATED EXODUS FROM THE SOUTHWEST HAD NOT OCCURRED WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE FRENCH TROOPS. UNAMIR ANNOUNCED IT IS WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION INTO THE FORMER "PROTECTED ZONE". CHARGE ADVISED COLLEAGUES OF THE IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF U.S. ARMY TROOPS FROM THE AIRPORT. TANZANIA ASKED MINISTRY ASSISTANCE IN EVACUATING SQUATTERS FROM ITS HOUSES. END SUMMARY.

2. RWANDA'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, JEAN MARIE VIANNEY NDAGIJIMANA, SUMMONED THE GROWING DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO A FIRST MEETING AUGUST 24. PRESENT WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF AUSTRALIA (HONORY CONSUL), BURUNDI (AMBASSADOR), CHINA (FIRST SECRETARY), FRANCE (ANTENNA), GERMANY (CHARGE), KENYA (ADMINISTRATOR), TANZANIA (ADMINISTRATOR), UK (LIAISON TO UNAMIR), AND THE U.S. (CHARGE). UNDP, UNAMIR, BELGIAN COOPERATION AND THE CEPGL (ECONOMIC CONFERENCE OF THE GREAT LAKES) ALSO HAD REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.

3. THE MINISTER GAVE HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN KIGALI FOLLOWING THE "TRAGEDY OF GENOCIDE". HE SAID THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE ACCORD IN AUGUST 1993 BROUGHT HOPES FOR THE PEACE PROCESS AND FOR THE SECURITY AND PROSPERITY OF THE RWANDAN PEOPLE. NO ONE COUNTED ON THE RESISTANCE OF THE FORMER HOLDERS OF POWER TO BLOCK THE PROCESS TO DEMOCRACY IN THE WAY THAT LED TO THE TRAGEDY OF RWANDA. THE FORMER GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL ARMY UNDERTOOK TO MASSACRE THE RWANDAN PEOPLE ON THE BASIS OF ETHNICITY AND POLITICAL VIEWS. THE MASSACRES WERE SYSTEMATIC AND ORGANIZED, AIMED AT ELIMINATING ALL THE POLITICAL LEADERS AND ETHNIC TUTSIS. HE SAID THERE IS TALK OF ONE MILLION OR MORE DEAD.

UNCLASSIFIED

-2-

4. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE MASSACRES LED TO RENEWED WAR BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "NORMAL" UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID THE MASSACRES DID NOT PERMIT CHANGE TO COME UNDER THE ARUSHA ACCORD, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE. NEVERTHELESS, THE INTERNAL OPPOSITION PARTIES THAT WERE THE PRINCIPAL VICTIMS OF THE GENOCIDE ENTERED INTO A DIALOGUE WITH THE RPF THAT RESULTED IN THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING THE "SPIRIT OF ARUSHA".

5. THE ARUSHA ACCORD CANNOT BE FOLLOWED ENTIRELY, THE MINISTER SAID. HE CITED THE PROTOCOLS ON THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARMY AND OF POLITICAL FORCES AS CASES IN POINT. THE MRND, THE CDR, AND THEIR ALLIES CANNOT PARTICIPATE, BY VIRTUE OF WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE DOOR IS OPEN TO AN ENLARGED POLITICAL BASE AND THE INCLUSION IN THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE MRND WHO DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE MASSACRES. WITHOUT CITING NAMES, HE SAID CONTACTS WERE UNDERWAY, BUT SO FAR THEY HAD NOT BORNE FRUIT. FOR DIVERSE REASONS, HE SAID, THESE PERSONS PREFER TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY FOR NOW.

6. COMMENT. ONE OF THESE PERSONS IS CLAVER KANYARUSHOKI, RWANDA'S AMBASSADOR TO UGANDA SINCE 1986 WHO PLAYED A PROMINENT ROLE AS THE NUMBER TWO MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATING TEAM AT ARUSHA. REPORTEDLY, HE ACCEPTED TO RETURN BUT CHANGED HIS MIND FOLLOWING THREATS ON HIS LIFE FROM FORMER GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATES. END COMMENT.

7. THE MINISTER SAID THE SAME INCLUSION PRINCIPLE APPLIES TO THE MILITARY. THOSE NOT INVOLVED IN THE KILLING CAN CONTINUE THEIR MILITARY CAREERS. SEVERAL HUNDRED HAVE RETURNED, HE SAID, AND THE INTEGRATION PROCESS IS UNDERWAY. (NOTE: WHILE MANY HAVE, IN FACT, RETURNED, FORCE INTEGRATION HAS NOT YET STARTED. END NOTE.)

8. THE MINISTER TURNED TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITIES. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO ESTABLISHING THE RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRACY, AND AN INDEPENDENT AND TRANSPARENT SYSTEM OF JUSTICE. INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE PUT IN PLACE PROGRESSIVELY. THE GOVERNMENT IS ALREADY IN PLACE. THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WILL BE INSTALLED WITHIN THE MONTH; POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED NOTIFICATION TO PRESENT THEIR CANDIDATES. THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM WILL FOLLOW.

9. DEMOCRATIZATION WILL FOLLOW THE PROGRAM OUTLINED IN THE ARUSHA ACCORD. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF RESTORING A SINGLE PARTY. NEW PARTIES NOT ENVISIONED IN THE PEACE ACCORD AND NOT CURRENTLY IN THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ABLE TO FORM.

UNCLASSIFIED

-3-

10. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IS A KEY GOAL, NDAGIJIMANA SAID. THE MAJOR CHALLENGE IS TO REASSEMBLE INSIDE RWANDA THE POPULATION NOW DISPERSED IN ZAIRE, TANZANIA, BURUNDI, KENYA AND EUROPE. THE GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REPATRIATE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S HELP IN THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT AND ASKED FOR CONTINUED HELP ON REPATRIATION.

11. CREATING A CLIMATE FOR RETURN WILL BE PARAMOUNT, THE MINISTER SAID. SECURITY IS THE KEY. HE ADMITTED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME EXACTIONS AGAINST RETURNEES THAT HAVE BEEN BLAMED ON THE ARMY. BUT HE STRESSED THE GOVERNMENT'S OPENNESS TO OBSERVERS, INCLUDING PRISONS. (COMMENT: RWANDAN HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVERS TOLD CHARGE THAT VICE PRESIDENT KAGAME HAS ASSURED THEM ACCESS NOT ONLY TO PRISONS BUT ALSO TO MILITARY CAMPS. END COMMENT.)

12. NDAGIJIMANA SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT ASKED HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER AYALA LASSO, WHO VISITED RWANDA AUGUST 20-21, TO AUGMENT THE NUMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVERS IN ORDER TO REASSURE THE POPULATION AND ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING IN THE RURAL AREAS. HE NOTED THAT THE GOR HAS ALSO ASKED THAT AN INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL BE CREATED. HE SAID SUCH A COURT, WITH INTERNATIONAL JUDGES, WOULD HELP ASSURE NEUTRAL JUSTICE AND AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF VENGEANCE.

13. THE MINISTER SAID THE ECONOMY IS DESTITUTE FROM THE LOSS OF LIVES, MATERIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AND COMMUNICATIONS CAPACITY. THE BANKS HAVE BEEN EMPTIED. RWANDA ALONE CANNOT RESTORE THE ECONOMY. HE APPEALED TO THE DONOR COMMUNITY TO ASSIST IN RESTARTING THE ECONOMY. BUDGETARY SUPPORT, HE SAID, AS WELL AS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IS URGENTLY NEEDED.

14. THE MINISTER SAID THE GOR IS COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING A POLICY OF OPENNESS IN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS BEFORE. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED, EXCHANGES WILL BE MORE FRANK, WITHOUT THE "DOUBLE-TALK" OF THE PAST. HE CITED THE ARUSHA PEACE TALKS, NOTING THE CONTRIBUTION AND INVESTMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY -- ESPECIALLY TANZANIA -- AS OBSERVERS. HE SAID THE DOUBLE-TALK WAS ALWAYS PRESENT AT ARUSHA: THE FORMER GOVERNMENT APPEARED TO ACCEPT THE NEGOTIATED PROTOCOLS, WHILE ACTUALLY WORKING AGAINST THEM. NOW, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SAY WHAT IT THINKS.

UNCLASSIFIED

-4-

15. COMMENTING ON THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTHWEST, THE MINISTER SAID FEAR OF AN EXODUS HAD PERHAPS BEEN JUSTIFIED, BUT EXAGGERATED. HE NOTED THAT UNAMIR HAD BEEN DEPLOYED AND THAT NO MASSIVE EXODUS OCCURRED AS THE FRENCH TROOPS WITHDREW. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF SENDING ITS TROOPS TO THE AREA OR OF TAKING ANY ACTION THAT MIGHT CREATE PANIC AMONG THE POPULATION. IT WILL HOWEVER, NAME WITHIN A FEW DAYS LOCAL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE REGION (PREFETS AND SOUS-PREFETS), AND THE PEOPLE WILL SOON ELECT THEIR BURGOMASTERS AND SECTOR COUNSELORS. RESTORATION OF SERVICES, SUCH AS HEALTH AND EDUCATION, WILL BE PRIORITIES. POLICE WILL BE INSTALLED LITTLE BY LITTLE FOR THE SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE. STABILITY IN THE SOUTHWEST SHOULD HELP REASSURE OTHERS THAT RETURN IS POSSIBLE.

16. THE MINISTER INTRODUCED RWANDA'S AMBASSADORS-DESIGNATE TO EGYPT (AMRI SUED, FORMER CHIEF OF PROTOCOL), OTTAWA, AND BUJUMBURA, THEN OPENED THE FLOOR TO COMMENTS.

17. UNAMIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DR. ABDUL KABIA, COMMENTED ON THE TRANSITION IN THE SOUTHWEST ZONE AND ANNOUNCED THAT UNAMIR IS WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION INTO THE AREA, WITH THE GOAL OF ENHANCING THE GOVERNMENT'S NON-MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA. UNAMIR SAID IT HAS FACILITATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS OFFICES AT THE BURUNDI AND ZAIRIAN BORDERS AND THAT IT HAS ASSURANCES FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT THERE WILL BE NO RETRIBUTION AND NO MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA. UNAMIR ACKNOWLEDGED CRITICISM FROM NGO'S OF ITS LEAFLET DROP IN GOMA OVER THE WEEKEND, BUT STRESSED THAT UNAMIR WAS NOT/NOT GUARANTEEING SECURITY BUT INFORMING THE PEOPLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ASSURANCES OF SECURITY. KABIA SAID THE UN COMMITTEE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN RWANDA AUGUST 29.

18. COMMENT. THE LEAFLET DROP WAS HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL. ON ONE SIDE WAS THE UN LOGO AND THE FLAGS OF SEVERAL NATIONS; ON THE OTHER A CALL FOR PEOPLE TO RETURN TO SECURITY, FOOD, AND MEDICAL CARE IN RWANDA. A COMMITTEE OF UN AND NGO AGENCIES IS NOW COLLABORATING WITH UNAMIR ON THE NEXT PROPOSED DROP. END COMMENT.)

19. TANZANIA'S REPRESENTATIVE RAISED THE ISSUE OF SQUATTERS IN EMBASSY RESIDENCES AND ASKED WHETHER THE MINISTRY COULD HELP EVACUATE THEM SO EMBASSY OPERATIONS COULD START UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT

UNCLASSIFIED

-5-

POSITION WAS THAT SUCH OCCUPANTS MUST/MUST EVACUATE PREMISES THAT ARE NOT THEIRS. HE SAID AN INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSION IS IN PLACE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION. HE SAID THE MINISTRY CAN SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY, BUT HE ADVISED THE DIPLOMATS TO MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE INTERMINISTERIAL GROUP IF POSSIBLE.

20. CHARGE EXPRESSED REGRET FOR THE TRAGEDY OF APRIL AND MAY, ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW, AND ADVISED THE GROUP THAT THE U.S. ARMY CONTINGENT AT THE KIGALI AIRPORT WOULD WITHDRAW BY SEPTEMBER 1, HAVING COMPLETED ITS HUMANITARIAN OBJECTIVE OF OPENING THE AIRPORT. SHE SAID UNHCR WOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING THE FLOW OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE AIRPORT THEREAFTER.

21. IN CONCLUSION, MINISTER NDAGIJIMANA SAID THAT THE DOORS OF THE MINISTRY ARE OPEN DESPITE THE PAUCITY OF EMPLOYEES. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON INTRODUCE REQUESTS FOR AGREEMENT TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS AND HE APPEALED FOR RAPID PROCESSING AND RESPONSE.

22. COMMENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER PULLED NO PUNCHES IN PRESENTING HIS ANALYSIS AND ACCOUNT OF THE MASSACRES. SOURCES TOLD CHARGE EARLIER THAT, AS AMBASSADOR TO PARIS WHEN THE EVENTS BEGAN, NDAGIJIMANA WAS QUICK TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST THE MASSACRES. WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SELF-PROCLAIMED INTERIM GOVERNMENT WENT TO PARIS TO SOLICIT SUPPORT, THEY BY-PASSED TOTALLY THEIR EMBASSY AND THE AMBASSADOR. END COMMENT.

UNCLASSIFIED